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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/701,944

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Kozo Kojima

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EXAMINER

FORD, GRANT M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2141

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/13/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/701,944

Applicant(s)

KOJIMA, KOZO

Examiner

Grant Ford

Art Unit

2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Akahane et al. (US 2001/0050914) hereinafter referred to as Akahane.

- a. As per claim 1, Akahane discloses a packet routing device accommodating a plurality of virtual private networks (VPNs), comprising:
 - a switch (Figure 4 element 51); and
 - a plurality of packet processing units each having a routing table, wherein each packet processing unit, in the case of receiving a packet received at a receipt port, searches, as a receiving-side packet processing unit, for a transmitting-side packet

processing unit for forwarding the packet to a transmission port from the routing table by use of a receiving-side VPN identifier of the packet, and forwards the packet to a packet processing unit corresponding to the transmitting-side packet processing unit, and, in the case of receiving a packet via the switch from a receiving-side packet processing unit, searches, as a transmitting-side packet processing unit, for a transmission port for the packet from the routing table by use of a transmitting-side VPN identifier of the packet, and forwards the packet to the transmission port searched for (Fig. 4-5, Para. 0054,0058-0060,0062,0065-0066,0068-0069,0071-0072,0079,0088).

b. As per claim 2, Akahane discloses wherein each of the packet processing units, in the case of functioning as the receiving-side packet processing unit, searches for a corresponding transmitting-side packet processing unit and a transmitting-side VPN identifier from the routing table by use of the receiving-side VPN identifier, and forwards the searched transmitting-side VPN identifier to a transmitting-side packet processing unit, and, in the case of functioning as the transmitting-side packet processing unit, searches for a corresponding transmission port from the routing table by use of the transmitting-side VPN identifier from the receiving-side packet processing unit (Para. 0054,0057-0060,0067-0069).

c. As per claim 3, Akahane discloses wherein each of the packet processing units as a receiving-side packet processing unit, in case a receiving-side VPN identifier is the same as a transmitting-side VPN identifier searched for, forwards a transmitting-side VPN identifier having an equal value to the receiving-side VPN identifier, to a transmitting-side packet processing unit (Para. 0066-0069).

d. As per claim 4, Akahane discloses wherein each of the packet processing units, in the case of functioning as a receiving-side packet processing unit, searches for a VPN identifier, as a receiving-side VPN identifier, corresponding to a receipt port of a packet (Fig. 6, Para. 0054-0057,0084,0088).

e. As per claim 5, Akahane discloses wherein each of the packet processing units, in the case of functioning as a receiving-side packet processing unit, searches for a VPN identifier, as a receiving-side VPN identifier, corresponding to a receipt port of a packet (Fig. 6, Para. 0054-0057,0084,0088).

f. As per claim 6, Akahane discloses entry registering means for executing a process of registering one or more entries in the routing table of each packet processing unit, wherein the entry registering means receives a plurality of entries as candidates for registration with respect to a certain packet processing unit, each entry includes a VPN identifier as a search key, and packet processing unit identifying information and a transmitting-side VPN identifier corresponding to the VPN identifier as the search key, the entry registering means executes a process for registering in the routing table only one or more entries that, among the plurality of entries as the candidates for registration, the packet processing unit identifying information included in the entry indicates the certain packet processing unit, and that the VPN identifier as the search key is the same as the transmitting-side VPN identifier (Para. 0050,0086).

g. As per claim 7, Akahane discloses a packet routing device disposed between a network side and a user side, accommodating a plurality of virtual private

Art Unit: 2141

networks (VPNs), and accommodating a user terminal belonging to any one of the VPNs, comprising:

- a switch (Figure 4 element 51); and

- a plurality of packet processing units each having a routing table, wherein each packet processing unit, in the case of receiving a packet received at a receipt port and addressed to a user terminal, searches, as a receiving-side packet processing unit, for a transmitting-side packet processing unit and a transmitting-side VPN identifier corresponding to a receiving-side VPN identifier and a destination network address of the packet from a routing table, and, in the case of receiving a packet and a transmitting-side VPN identifier from a receiving-side packet processing unit via the switch, searches, as a transmitting-side packet processing unit, for a transmission port corresponding to the transmitting-side VPN identifier and to a destination host address of the packet from the routing table, and forwards the packet to the transmission port searched for (Fig. 4-5, Para. 0054,0058-0060,0062,0065-0066,0068-0069,0071-0072,0079,0088).

h. As per claim 8, Akahane discloses a packet processing device provided in a packet routing device accommodating a plurality of virtual private networks (VPNs) with at least one other packet processing device, comprising:

- a receiving-side packet processing unit (Fig. 4-5);

- a transmitting-side packet processing unit (Fig. 4-5); and

- a routing table, wherein the receiving-side packet processing unit receives a packet received at a receipt port of the packet routing device and searches for other

Art Unit: 2141

packet processing device for forwarding the packet to a transmission port from the routing table by use of a receiving-side VPN identifier of the packet, and the transmitting-side packet processing unit receives a packet forwarded from other packet processing device and searches for a transmission port of the packet from the routing table by use of a transmitting-side VPN identifier of the packet (Para. 0054,0058-0060,0062,0065-0066,0068-0069,0071-0072,0079,0088).

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Grant Ford whose telephone number is (571)272-8630. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Mon-Thurs alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on (571)272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2141

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

gmf


RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER